GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3163
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2000
MENTAL RETARDATION CASES
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;RAM SHAKAL;RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the welfare schemes in operation for handicapped persons;

(b) whether the Government are aware that mental retardation cases are increasing in the country;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether a 20 point programme has been implemented in this regard;

(e) the steps taken to improve the living conditions of mentally retarded children/persons;

(f) whether the Government also propose to increase the budget allocation for handicapped persons in consonance with their population; and (g) if not, reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

SMT. MANEKA GANDHI

(a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b)&(c)The number of persons with mental retardation will increase proportionate to increase in general population. However, prevalence of delayed mental development remains the same at 3 per cent of the general population as shown by several studies conducted in various parts of the country. The National Sample Survey Organisation conducted a survey of children with delayed development in the age group of 1-14 years. Prevalence of delayed development was observed to be 31 in 1000 rural children while in the urban areas it was present in 29 out of 1000 children in the age group of 1-14 years.

(d) None of the points relates to disability sector in the 20 Point Programme drawn up by the Government in 1986.

(e) The position is stated in reply to part (a) above.

(f)&(g)The budget provision in the disability sector in the Ministry of Social Justice andEmpowerment has gone up from Rs. 45.46 crore in 1990-91 to Rs. 177.33 crore in 1999.2000.